

# News Release



February 24, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Photo included

Contact:

Brian Uhl

(805) 968-3834

Contact:

Wes Chapin

[wchap@parks.ca.gov](mailto:wchap@parks.ca.gov)

## California State Parks to offer Surfing Classes

Goleta – Surfing is one of the most popular sports in California, and the beaches of Santa Barbara County are increasingly crowded with surfers of varying skill levels. To teach County youth how to enjoy this exciting sport in safety is the goal of a new series of surf camps to be offered this spring by California State Parks at Refugio State Beach beginning March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Open to young people ages 7-17 who are or have been enrolled in the Refugio Junior Lifeguard program, the camps will be conducted by professionally certified California State Parks Lifeguards, each of whom is an ocean lover and avid surfer.

Two camps are planned and a third may be added if there is sufficient interest. The first Camp will be held March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The second camp is scheduled to run April 6<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>. Both camps begin at 9 AM and conclude at 3 PM.

“The primary objective of our new Surf Safety Day Camps is to provide high-quality surfing instruction and aquatic safety education to young people, so they can learn to safely enjoy the beach and ocean environment,” says Brian Uhl, surf camp coordinator.

Although the Refugio Junior Lifeguard Program, offered each summer, includes surfing instruction and practice as part of its standard curriculum, the training is limited because “summertime” and “good surf” along the Gaviota Coast are not usually associated with one another. The new Surf Safety Day Camps have been scheduled to coincide with the typically better springtime waves.

“For more than 15 years, the mission of the Refugio Junior Lifeguard Program has been to provide high-quality water safety education to young people in and around Santa Barbara County,” Uhl said. “We’re excited to be able to expand our program to offer these Surf Safety Day Camps.”

For more information about the Refugio Junior Lifeguard Surf Safety Day Camps, visit [www.refugiojg.com](http://www.refugiojg.com) and call (805) 968-3834 or email [refugiojrguards@parks.ca.gov](mailto:refugiojrguards@parks.ca.gov).

####

(See attached photo)



A California State Parks Lifeguard (right) offers a helping hand to one of her surf students at Refugio State Beach. Lifeguards will conduct two new Surf Safety Day Camps at the park this spring.

Photo © California State Parks